Criteria* for Issuance of Silver Alert

1. Is the missing person 60 years of age or older?

2. Is the missing person believed to have Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other permanent cognitive impairment which poses a threat to their health and safety?

3. Is there reasonable belief that the missing person’s disappearance is due to their impaired cognitive condition?

4. Is the Silver Alert request within 72 hours of the individual’s disappearance?

5. Is there sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing person?

*If any of these are not present, a Missing/Endangered alert may be issued via the WI Crime Alert Network.
We hope that no family is ever in the situation to need our help. Unfortunately, we know that many will be.

If your family member is at risk of becoming lost, the best thing to do is be prepared.

- Have a clear photo of your loved one stored in a digital file so it can be transmitted to law enforcement quickly.
- If you are concerned about your loved one’s ability to safely operate a vehicle, you can submit a *Driver Condition or Behavior Report* (MV3141) to the WI Department of Transportation at www.dot.state.wi.us. This will begin a process by which the DOT will assess your loved one’s driving ability. You can also engage the help of your family member’s doctor when filling out this form.
- Know your loved one’s vehicle details, license plate and any unique descriptors. Keep a photo of the vehicle and any identifying features of it. Even if they no longer have a license and/or keys are kept out of view, it is best to be prepared if your family member becomes lost while in a vehicle.
- Encourage personalized plates, a unique bumper sticker or window cling on your loved one’s vehicle. This will make the vehicle more noticeable.
- Utilize local resources such as the local chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association at www.alz.org, Aging and Disability Resource Center (a bureau of the WI Dept. of Health Services) at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov, or Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin at www.alzwisc.org for information on wandering triggers and prevention tips.
- Contact your local law enforcement agency to determine whether they endorse and are trained in a tracking device program. Some Wisconsin communities also maintain their own registry of elderly residents who are at risk of becoming lost.
- Sign up at wisconsincrimealert.gov to receive alerts from the Wisconsin Crime Alert Network, which includes Silver Alerts and AMBER Alerts. You may be the person who finds someone else’s lost family member.

**A Message from Attorney General Josh Kaul**

Communities share the responsibility of caring for our elderly neighbors, family members, and patients. The Wisconsin Department of Justice Silver Alert program is a critical tool that communities use to find the lost and bring our loved ones home. Together, law enforcement, caretakers, and friends can work together to ensure the well-being of others.